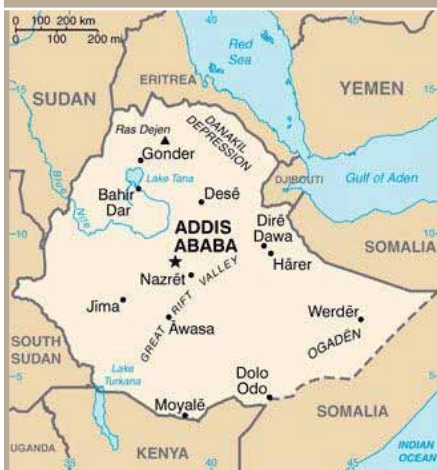


DPHSWD in Ethiopia



Accomplishments in Ethiopia

- E-FETP participants are the first trained field epidemiologists in Ethiopia's history.
- Process improvement (PI) team projects have increased the percentage of antenatal care clients delivering in an institutional setting from 23% to 56% at Shashemene Referral Hospital.
- PI team projects have also increased HIV testing and counseling of pregnant women's partners from 13% to 51% at Fitche Hospital and HIV+ women's CD4 count levels being tested from 43% to 90% at Asella Hospital.
- In 2011, E-FETP investigated 29 outbreaks, conducted 19 disease surveillance analyses, and evaluated 8 surveillance health systems.
- Two residents presented at the NCID, ISID Conference in Bangkok June 2012.

Overview and Goals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD), works with the Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to build workforce capacity, strengthen public health systems, and strengthen public health institutions. CDC assisted the FMOH to establish a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in 2009. The program is a joint effort between the FMOH/Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI), the Addis Ababa University School of Public Health, and the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA). Areas of focus include disease surveillance, outbreak response, and program evaluation through training programs in applied epidemiology. Through DPHSWD, CDC has also collaborated with Ethiopia's Oromia Regional Health Bureau (ORHB), CDC Ethiopia, and Jhpiego Ethiopia to develop management capacity. The goal of the program is to help improve the speed of antiretroviral therapy (ART) scale-up and the quality of HIV/AIDS care and treatment in support of FMOH and PEPFAR objectives. The program uses Process Improvement (PI) to help achieve Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) objectives.

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

The two-year competency-based training and service program in applied epidemiology guides residents in the development of knowledge and experience to become public health professionals who are qualified to assume leadership positions in various levels of the FMOH and Regional Health Bureaus. A majority of the graduates now work for the Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) division at the regional level.

To date, 75 participants from 18 PMTCT facilities and Zonal Health offices in Ethiopia's populous Oromia region have attended workshops that teach PI tools designed to help teams address gaps in effective PMTCT work-related processes. After the teams complete the training, they conduct mentored projects at their worksites to address problems related to work processes such as partner testing, antenatal care clients delivering in an institutional setting, and having HIV+ women's CD4 counts tested, in alignment with FMOH and PEPFAR objectives.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

During field assignments, residents conduct epidemiologic investigations and field surveys, evaluate surveillance systems, and perform disease control and prevention. They also report their findings to decision- and policy-makers and the broader community of national and international public health professionals. In addition, residents and graduates help train other health workers.

Stakeholders now plan to increase the impact of the PMTCT PI projects by standardizing and replicating the improved processes across a number of PMTCT facilities in the Oromia region, thus considerably strengthening the overall system.



Gole Ejeta, Ethiopia FETP resident, with WHO expert and community leaders during Influenza (H1N1) outbreak investigation in Kersa Dula woreda, Somali regional state, 2011.



Ketema Belda, Ethiopia FETP resident, holding boy during investigation of vaccine derivative polio virus outbreak in Bale Zone of Oromia Regional state.



Ethiopia FETP resident, Mekdes Demissie, investigating measles outbreak in Gesha.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Institutions

After residents complete all program requirements, they are awarded a Master of Public Health in Field Epidemiology from the Addis Ababa University School of Public Health. CDC is supporting the institution by assigning experienced resident advisors to provide technical assistance in teaching and mentoring program residents, and giving consultation to the Ethiopia FMOH on priority public health issues. In addition, the Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) has trained 19 PMTCT team leads who have completed PI courses and projects to become facilitators of future PI courses in Oromia. Developing regional capacity enables the ORHB staff to facilitate courses and mentor applied management improvement projects without assistance from CDC or other outside stakeholders.

Future Plans

The E-FETP, in collaboration with key partners, plans to:

- Provide more resources to its five field stations where residents are placed and increase their ability to conduct outbreak investigations in various regions throughout the country.
- Strengthen mentorship for residents, and use graduates as mentors for the residents.
- Develop short-term field epidemiology training courses to reach the FMOH's goal of having trained epidemiologists in all 800 counties. These trainings would be 6 months to 1 year and based on the Pyramid Model used in FETPs in Latin America which focuses on three-levels of training—beginner, intermediate, and advanced.
- Continue working with the President's Malaria Initiative and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as well as other external partners to expand the E-FETP program by including activities focused on malaria, polio, and routine immunization.
- Through SMDP, refocus process improvement efforts from individual worksites to a broader-scale program that replicates processes that have been proven to have a positive impact across the region.

Key Partners

- Ministry of Health/Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute
- Ethiopia Public Health Association
- Addis Ababa University School of Public Health
- African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)
- Oromia Regional Health Bureau (ORHB)
- Jhpiego Ethiopia

Publication Date: December 2012

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